

UNCLASSIFIED

Department of State

10/4/83

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06987 041740Z
ACTION ARA-00

6635

HISTORY OF MENTAL DISTURBANCE. END COMMENT. BUSHKELL

INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
H-01 10-15 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-03 L-03
PM-08 PA-01 MCT-02 OMB-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
PRS-01 /087 W

ASL 07

R 041736Z OCT 83
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0859
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
USMISSION GENEVA

BUENOS AIRES 06987

DEPT FOR ARA/SC AND HA/HR; MONTEVIDEO FOR JAMES THYDEN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJ: INTRANSIGENT CANDIDATE REAPPEARS

REF: BUENOS AIRES 6834 (MOTAI)

1. (U) THE INTRANSIGENT PARTY CONFIRMED ON OCTOBER 3 THAT RUBEN ALVAREZ, MISSING SINCE MID-SEPTEMBER, WAS ALIVE AND WELL IN SAO PAULO, BRAZIL. INTRANSIGENT PARTY CONVENTION PRESIDENT JUAN CARLOS MANES TOLD THE PRESS THAT ALVAREZ HAD READ IN THE PAPERS WHAT A COMMOTION HIS DISAPPEARANCE HAD CAUSED AND HAD TELEPHONED MANES ON SEPTEMBER 30 FROM SAO PAULO TO REPORT THAT HE WAS "NERVOUS BUT IN GOOD HEALTH." FURTHER CONFIRMATION WAS MADE IN PERSON BY A PARTY LEADER WHO WENT TO SAO PAULO ON OCTOBER 3 TO CONFIRM THAT THE PERSON WHO TELEPHONED WAS ALVAREZ. MANES ALSO SAID THAT ALVAREZ, A CANDIDATE FOR PROVINCIAL DEPUTY IN SALTA PROVINCE, HAD LEFT ARGENTINA ON HIS OWN, WITHOUT TELLING ANYONE, BECAUSE ALVAREZ HAD BEEN RECEIVING CONSTANT THREATS AGAINST HIS LIFE, AND AGAINST HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN, TOO. MANES DID NOT SAY WHO HAD BEEN THREATENING THE ALVAREZ FAMILY.

2. (U) ALVAREZ' DISAPPEARANCE HAD BECOME A CAUSE CELEBRE FOR THE INTRANSIGENTS, UNIVERSITY GROUPS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS, WHO LED A MARCH ON THE NATIONAL PALACE SEPTEMBER 29 TO DEMAND HIS REAPPEARANCE ALIVE. IT ALSO OCCASIONED A NUMBER OF HUNGER STRIKES TO DRAMATIZE THE DISAPPEARED ISSUE, OF WHICH ALVAREZ HAD BECOME A SYMBOL. ONE WAS IN PROGRESS, STAGED BY SEVERAL PI SYMPATHIZERS, WHEN MANES ANNOUNCED ALVAREZ WAS ALIVE AND WELL AND THANKED THOSE WHO HAD SHOWN SOLIDARITY WITH THE CAMPAIGN TO ESTABLISH ALVAREZ' WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS.

3. COMMENT: THIS CASE HAD CONFUSED ALL CONCERNED. WHEN WE RAISED IT WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY UNDERSECRETARY GUILLERMO LAZCANO QUINTANA ON SEPTEMBER 29 DURING A CALL BY VISITING HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE DIRECTOR JAMES THYDEN, LAZCANO SEEMED EXASPERATED BUT RESIGNED TO THE COMMOTION CAUSED BY THE DISAPPEARANCE; THE MARCHERS WERE JUST THEN FORMING UP FOR THEIR DEMONSTRATION AT THE CASA ROSADA. LAZCANO SAID THAT HIS MINISTRY WAS MAKING EVERY REASONABLE EFFORT TO LOCATE ALVAREZ, AS INDEED IT APPEARED TO BE WHEN IT FILED HADEAS CORPUS WRITS ON ALVAREZ IN SEVERAL JURISDICTIONS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ALVAREZ HAD A LONG HISTORY OF POLITICALLY-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY AS A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY OF THE PEOPLE (ERP), AND HAD BEEN IMPRISONED IN THE LATE 1960'S (AMNESTIED IN 1973) AND AGAIN AFTER THE 1975 MILITARY COUP. LAZCANO SAID THAT ALVAREZ HAD BEEN RELEASED AGAIN IN 1980, AND HAD A

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny
Exemption(s):
Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full
Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to ☐
Declassify on ☐ Reason ☐

85D 205
11561